

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 04068 191314Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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O 191207Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4925

S E C R E T BEIRUT 4068

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, LE, US

KHALIDI

REF: STATE 194979

1. CONVEYED MESSAGE IN REFTEL TO WALID KHALIDI AUGUST 19. HE TOOK COPIOUS NOTES AND COMMENTED AS FOLLOWS:
2. HE HAD SEEN ARAFAT AND HIS PRINCIPAL LIEUTENANTS AUGUST 19 AND WOULD BE SEEING ARAFAT AGAIN 21ST OR 22ND BEFORE LATTER'S DEPARTURE FOR MOSCOW. HE FEELS ARAFAT AND HIS LIEUTENANTS HAVE CROSSED THE RUBICON AND UNDERSTAND THE NECESSITY OF ACCEPTING 242. PROBLEM FOR THEM IS THAT OF FINDING "IKHRAJ" OR A WAY OUT OF THEIR PRESENT IMPASSE. FOR POLITICAL AND PRACTICAL REASONS THEY NEED TO BE ABLE TO SAY TO THEIR CRITICS THAT THEY HAVE GOTTEN SOMETHING SPECIFIC IN RETURN FOR THEIR ACTIONS.
3. BASIC QUESTION IS ONE OF SOVEREIGNTY. HOMELAND OR ENTITY CONCEPT AS USED IN USG PUBLIC STATEMENTS IS VERY VAGUE. THERE IS ASYMMETRY BETWEEN VAGUENESS OF OUR LANGUAGE IN THAT RESPECT AND RELATIVE PRECISION OF 242 WITH REGARD TO WHAT ISRAEL GETS. IF ARAFAT

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ACCEPTS 242 THAT MEANS RECOGNIZING ISRAEL AND GIVING IT SECURE AND RECOGNIZED BORDERS IN EXCHANGE OF WHICH HE HAS ONLY SOME VERY GENERAL LANGUAGE AS TO WHAT PALESTINIANS WILL GET IN RETURN. HE NEEDS TO BE ABLE TO SAY: WE ARE GETTING SOVEREIGNTY OVER A PIECE OF TERRITORY.

4. KHALIDI THOUGHT THAT PERHAPS IF WE COULD CONTINUE

INFORMAL CONTACTS IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO WORK OUT
SOME AGREED LANGUAGE. USG NEED NOT GO PUBLIC.
PRIVATE ASSURANCES MIGHT ALSO DO THE TRICK. PROBLEM
WAS ONE OF CONFIDENCE. ARAFAT DID NOT WANT TO MAKE
CONCESSION TO ISRAEL AND THEN GET LEFT HIGH AND DRY
BY US.

5. KHALIDI IS LEAVING BEFORE END OF MONTH TO RETURN
TO HARVARD. WE AGREED THAT HE WOULD CALL EITHER
ATHERTON OR QUANDT TO DISCUSS WITH THEM POSSIBLE WAYS
OF REACHING AGREEMENT ON COMPROMISE BOTH WE AND PLO
CAN LIVE WITH.
PARKER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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